

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim in the present application is listed below.

Claims 1-52: (Canceled).

53. (Currently Amended) Isolated and purified pili obtained from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, wherein the pili:

(a) are macromolecules which comprise pilin monomers, wherein the pilin monomers comprise proteins having a molecular weight of 14-25 kDa,

(b) are in the form of aggregated fibers, wherein the fibers have a width of ~~about~~ 2 to 7 nm and a length of at least 5 microns ~~nm~~, and

(c) are immunogenic, and

(d) the aggregated fibers form a highly hydrophobic network.

54. (Previously Presented) The pili of Claim 53, which have been separated from said *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* by mechanical shearing, differential centrifugation or isopycnic separation.

55. (Currently Amended) The pili of Claim 53, wherein the fibers have a length of at least 10 microns ~~nm~~.

56. (Previously Presented) The pili of Claim 53, wherein the pilin monomers comprise SEQ ID NO: 1.

57. (Previously Presented) The pili of Claim 53, wherein the pilin monomers comprise SEQ ID NO: 2.

58. (Previously Presented) The pili of Claim 53, wherein the pilin monomers comprise SEQ ID NO: 3.

59. (Previously Presented) The pili of Claim 53, wherein the pilin monomers comprise SEQ ID NO: 5.

60. (Previously Presented) A method of producing the pili of Claim 53, comprising subjecting cells of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* which produce the pili to mechanical shearing, differential centrifugation or isopycnic separation and then isolating the pili from the cells.

61. (Previously Presented) A method of detecting a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection in a subject, comprising contacting a body fluid from the subject with the pili of Claim 53 and assaying for the presence of an antibody to the pili.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 61, wherein the subject is a human.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 61, wherein the body fluid is serum.

64. (Previously Presented) A method of inducing an immune response against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, comprising administering an effective amount of the pili of Claim 53 to a subject in need thereof.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 61, wherein the subject is a human.

Claims 66-71: (Canceled).